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RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE 7746
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE 0220
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RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE 0981
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE 6020
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE 2148
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE 0215
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RHMFISS/CJCS WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/02/2019

TAGS: [PREL](#) [AF](#) [PK](#) [TH](#)

SUBJECT: THAILAND: AMBASSADOR PREVIEWS THE PRESIDENT'S
STRATEGY ON AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN TO FM KASIT

REF: STATE 122731

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission James F. Entwistle, reasons 1.4
(b) and (d)

(C) The Ambassador previewed President Obama's announcement of U.S. strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan for Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya during a December 1 meeting at the Foreign Ministry, drawing on reftel talking points. Kasit assured the Ambassador that Thailand supported USG strategy in Afghanistan and Pakistan but asked how confident the USG was in Afghan President Hamid Karzai's abilities and in the Afghan government. FM Kasit said he had met Karzai many times when Kasit was Ambassador to Japan (Note: Kasit was assigned to Tokyo during 2001-2004, and represented Thailand at Afghan Donors' Conferences held there. End Note.); he stated he had not been impressed with the Afghan President. Kasit commented that he did not believe that Karzai was in control of the situation in Afghanistan and doubted how much control Karzai had of himself. The Ambassador told Kasit that the U.S. had to work with Karzai and highlighted that President Obama's strategy was designed to make Afghan government institutions more effective and accountable.
JOHN